

911 KAR 2:150. Kentucky Early Intervention Program personnel qualifications.

RELATES TO: 20 USC 1471-1485

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 194A.050, 200.650-676

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: The Cabinet for Health Services is directed by KRS 200.650 to 200.676 to administer all funds appropriated to implement provisions, to enter into contracts with service providers, and to promulgate administrative regulations. This administrative regulation sets forth the provisions of personnel qualifications as they relate to First Steps, Kentucky's Early Intervention Program.

Section 1. Personnel.

(1) Minimal qualifications for professionals or disciplines providing services in First Steps shall be:

(a) An audiologist shall have in accordance with KRS 334A.030:

1. A master's degree; and
2. A certificate and license from the Kentucky Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.

(b) A family therapist shall have in accordance with KRS 335.300:

1. A master's degree; and
2. A certificate from the Kentucky Board of Certification of Marriage and Family Therapist.

(c) A developmental interventionist shall have in accordance with KRS 161.028:

1. A bachelor's degree; and
2. An interdisciplinary early childhood education certificate (IECE) by Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board, Division of Certification; or
3. Be working toward the IECE certificate by:
 - a. Being enrolled in an approved preparation program in IECE at a university or college; or
 - b. Having an individual professional development plan approved by the Commission for Children with Special Health Care Needs (CCSHCN) for developing the skills in the teacher performance standards for IECE as stated in 704 KAR 20:084, Section 9; or
4. Hold a valid out-of-state certificate for the teacher of infants with disabilities.

(d) A nurse shall have in accordance with KRS 314.041:

1. An associate degree or diploma from a registered program; and
2. A license from the Kentucky Board of Nursing.

(e) A nutritionist shall have in accordance with KRS 310.031:

1. A master's degree; and
2. A certificate from the Kentucky Board of Licensure and Certification for Dietitians and Nutritionist.

(f) A dietitian shall have in accordance with KRS 310.021:

1. A bachelor's degree; and

2. A license from the Kentucky Board of Licensure and Certification for Dietitians and Nutritionist.

(g) An occupational therapist shall have in accordance with KRS 319A.130:

1. A bachelor's degree; and
2. A certificate and license from the Kentucky Occupational Therapy Board.

(h) An orientation and mobility (O and M) specialist shall have in accordance KRS 161.020 and with the Division of Exceptional Children Services, Kentucky Department of Education a bachelor's degree in Special Education with emphasis on visual impairment and O and M, KRS 161.020.

(i) A physician shall have in accordance with KRS 311.571:

1. A doctor of medicine degree or doctor of osteopathy degree; and
2. A license from the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure.

(j) A physical therapist shall have in accordance with KRS 327.020:

1. Bachelor's degree; and
2. A license from the Kentucky Board of Physical Therapy.

(k) A psychologist shall have in accordance with KRS 319.032:

1. A doctoral degree; and
2. A license from Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychology.

(l) A certified psychologist with autonomous functioning or psychological associate shall have in accordance with KRS 319.056-064:

1. A master's degree; and
2. A certificate from the Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychology.

(m) A social worker shall have in accordance with KRS 335.090:

1. A bachelor's degree; and
2. A license from the State Board of Examiners of Social Work of Kentucky.

(n) A speech-language pathologist shall have in accordance with KRS 334A.050:

1. A master's degree; and
2. A certificate and license from the Kentucky Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.

(o) A teacher of children who are deaf and hard of hearing shall have in accordance with KRS 161.030:

1. A bachelor's degree; and
2. A provisional certificate for teaching the deaf and hard of hearing, K-12 issued by the Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board, Division of Certification.

(p) A teacher of the visually impaired shall have in accordance with KRS 161.020-030:

1. A bachelor's degree; and

2. A certificate for teaching of the visually impaired, K-12 issued by the Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board, Division of Certification.

(2) The qualification for paraprofessionals providing early interventions services shall be:

(a) A developmental associate shall have:

1. An associate degree in the area of early childhood; or
2. A child development associate certificate for infant and toddlers caregiver or home visitor; or
3. A postsecondary vocational education diploma in child development or child care; or
4. Be employed in the developmental associate role in an approved program by October 1, 1997, and have a high school diploma or GED and be working toward one (1) of the qualifications stated in subparagraphs 1, 2, and 3 of this paragraph by:
 - a. Be enrolled in an approved program granting one (1) of the above stated qualifications; or
 - b. Have an individual professional development plan approved by the CCSHCN for developing the skills necessary to acquire one (1) of the above stated qualifications; and
5. Be indirectly supervised by a developmental interventionist.

(b) A developmental assistant shall have:

1. A high school diploma; or
2. A GED; and
3. Be directly supervised by a developmental interventionist or developmental associate.

(c) A certified occupational therapy assistant shall have in accordance with KRS 319A.110:

1. An OTA degree; and
2. A certificate and license from the Kentucky Occupational Therapy Board.

(d) A physical therapy assistant shall have in accordance with KRS 327.040(12):

1. An associate degree in physical therapy assistance; and
2. A license from the Kentucky Board of Physical Therapy.

(e) A speech-language pathology assistant shall have in accordance with KRS 334A.030:

1. A bachelor's degree; and
2. A license from the Kentucky Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.

(f) A licensed practical nurse shall have in accordance with KRS 314.051:

1. A high school diploma or a GED;
2. Have completed a state approved LPN education program; and
3. A license from the Kentucky Board of Nursing.

(3) The qualifications for recognized service positions providing services in First Steps shall be:

(a) An initial service coordinator shall be approved by the cabinet based on the following qualifications:

1. Meeting minimum highest entry-level requirement for one (1) of the professions delineated in this administrative regulation; or
2. Have a bachelor's degree and the equivalency of two (2) years' experience in working with young children ages birth through five (5) years in a position in which the following skills and competencies have been demonstrated:
 - a. Communication skills in interviewing, negotiating and mediating, and providing informal support;
 - b. Problem-solving by finding and utilizing services and resources, resolving conflicts, integrating services using formal and informal channels, and enabling families to use problem-solving;
 - c. Organization by maintaining accurate data collection and resource information, exhibiting flexibility in scheduling, and developing plans; and
 - d. Collaboration and leadership through developing relationships with families, enabling families to develop their decision-making skills, and establishing collaborative relationships with service providers.

(b) A primary service coordinator shall be approved by the cabinet based on the following qualifications:

1. Meeting minimum highest entry-level requirements for one (1) of the professions delineated in this administrative regulation; or
2. Meeting requirements for one (1) of the paraprofessionals delineated in this administrative regulation; or
3. Have a bachelor's degree and the equivalency of two (2) years' experience in working with young children ages birth through five (5) years in a position in which the following skills and competencies have been demonstrated:
 - a. Communication skills in interviewing, negotiating and mediating, and providing informal support;
 - b. Problem-solving: finding and utilizing services and resources, resolving conflicts, integrating services using formal and informal channels, and enabling families to use problem-solving;
 - c. Organization by maintaining accurate data collection and resource information, exhibiting flexibility in scheduling, and developing plans; and
 - d. Collaboration and leadership through developing relationships with families, enabling families to develop their decision-making skills, and establishing collaborative relationships with service providers.

- (c) A developmental evaluator shall be approved by the cabinet by:
 - 1. Meeting minimum highest entry-level requirements for one (1) of the professionals delineated in this administrative regulation; and
 - a. Having a bachelor's degree in a related field; and
 - b. Having two (2) years experience working directly with young children birth through two (2) years of age, including children with disabilities or atypical development; and
 - 2. Having had one (1) year of experience in using standardized instruments and procedures to evaluate infants and toddlers birth through two (2) years of age, completed as part of formal training or in supervised practice, or completes a mentorship during the first year of providing services in First Steps as approved by the cabinet.
- (d) An assistive technology specialists shall be approved by the cabinet based on the following qualifications:
 - 1. Meeting minimum highest entry-level requirements for one (1) of the professions delineated in this administrative regulation;
 - 2. Having extensive knowledge, training, and experience in the field of assistive technologies for infants and toddlers with disabilities; or
 - 3. Meeting the qualifications in subparagraph 2 of this paragraph and be employed by an agency that currently provides assistive technology services in First Steps, and be approved by the cabinet.
- (e) A respite provider shall:
 - 1. Meet all license, regulations, and other requirements applicable to the setting in which respite is provided;
 - 2. Be approved by the individualized family service planning team.

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